Pacific Seabird Group

BULLETIN

Volume 11 Number 2 1984

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PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP
BULLETIN

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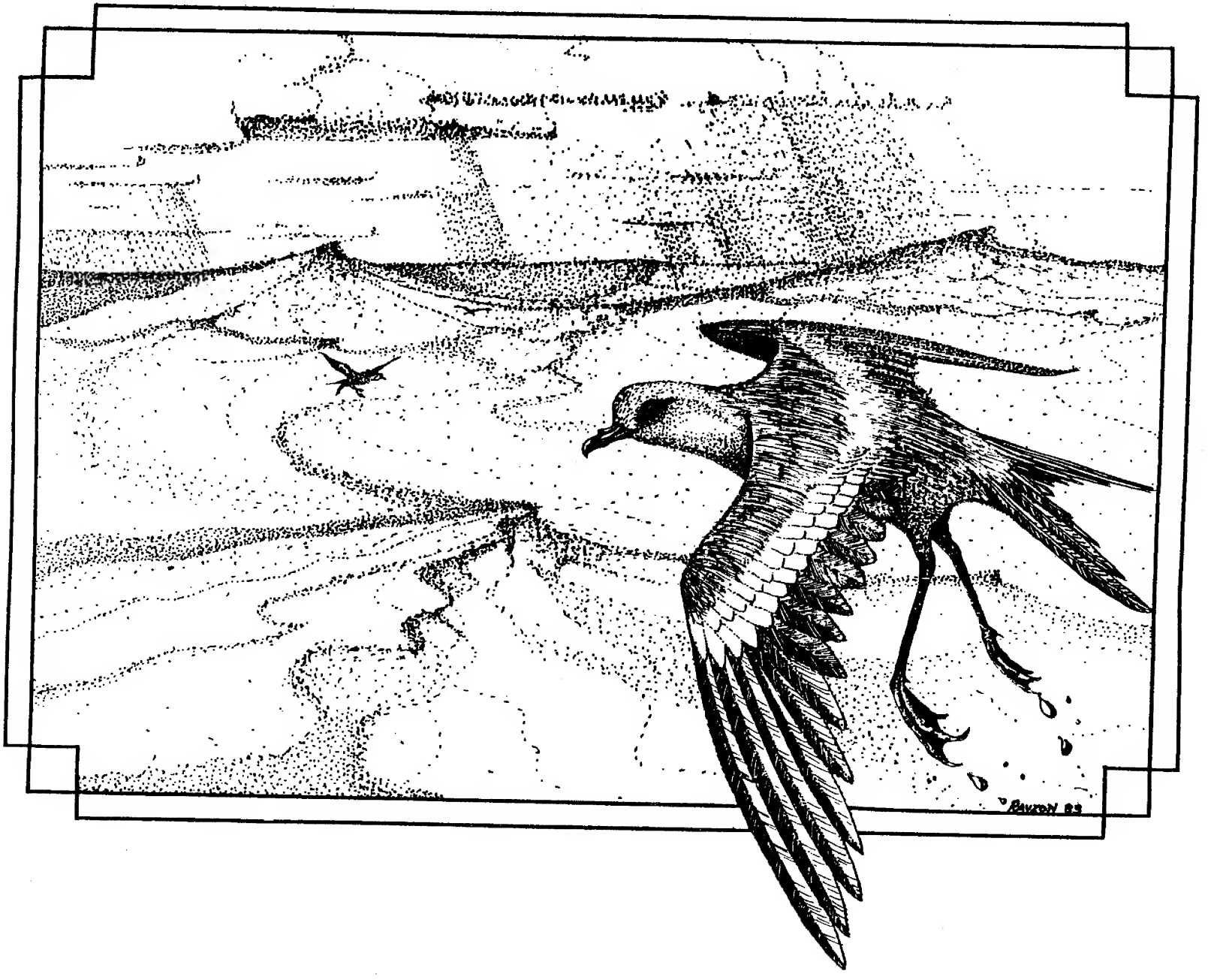
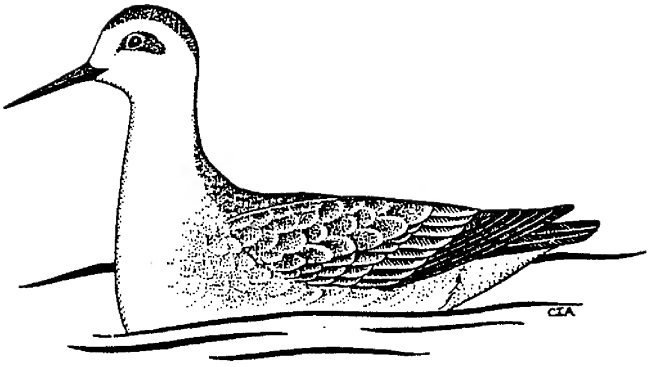




THE CHAIR'S PAGE

A number of endeavors have been completed this year, the most significant being the establishment of an endowment fund for the organization and dissemination of symposia. Many seabirds do not restrict their activities to local regions but range widely. Those who study them are in many countries, and often the quality of a PSG symposium might be greatly enhanced if a key worker or two from distant countries could attend the meeting. They are often prevented from attending due to the expense of travel. Endowment funds could be used in some of these cases. Furthermore, while PSG in the past has relied on other sources to fund the publication of our symposia, we cannot expect to do so indefinitely. Again, the Endowment Fund will be able to help out.

At this time the fund is too small to be of significant aid. It needs to be fattened up before the yearly interest accrued will be sufficient to provide any substantial support. To that end I plan to recruit a Fundraising Committee at our next meeting in Long Beach which can use that opportunity to have its first strategy meeting. The fund is an important investment in the future for PSG, and the work of an enthusiastic and creative fundraising committee is essential. The committee will need all the help it can get!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE OR IF YOU KNOW OF SOME PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE, CREATIVE FUNDRAISING TECHNIQUES, PLEASE DROP A NOTE TO ME (see back of Bulletin), and I will pass the information to the appropriate persons.

If, with the help of all PSG members, we can mount a concerted, determined effort for the next three to four years to augment the Endowment Fund substantially, I believe it will contribute greatly to the quality and number of future symposia. This will contribute measurably to pursuing PSG's goal of facilitating the study of seabirds and their environment, and of making knowledge gained from such studies widely available.

Judith Latta Hand

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP NEWS

1984 Election Results

The members of the Executive Council elected in the 1984 election are:

Chair Elect	Lora Leschner
Secretary	Tony DeGange
Treasurer	Douglas Siegel-Causey

Regional Representatives:

Alaska	Ed Murphy
Hawaii	Stewart Fefer
Mexico	Enriqueta Velarde
Northern California	Thomas Harvey
Washington	Steve Speich

The results on the bylaw changes are:

Question 1	107 yes 4 no
Question 2	109 yes 2 no
Question 3	84 yes 25 no

As a result of these bylaw changes, references to gender will be removed, Chair for the past three years will become members of the Executive Council, a quorum for the Executive Council becomes ten, and the regional representative positions will be changed.

In 1985 we shall elect Regional Representatives from the following regions: Northeast (Newfoundland, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Europe), Southeast (New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Africa), Great Lakes (Ontario, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota), Inland (West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona), Central California (members with Zip Codes starting with 940-953 and 956-958), and Southern California (members with Zip Codes starting with 920-939).

In 1986 we shall elect Regional Representatives from Alaska, Pacific (Hawaii, South Pacific, and Asia), Latin America (Mexico, Central America, South America), British Columbia and Washington, and Oregon and Northern California (members with Zip Codes starting with 954, 955, and 959-961).

If you are unsure which region you live in, keep this list in a handy place. If you are interested in serving as a Regional Representative, especially for one of the new regions, please notify the Chair of the Elections Committee, Stewart Fefer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850.

Search for a New Editor

PSG is seeking a new Editor for the PSG Bulletin (and possibly a Newsletter) to assume office no later than midsummer 1985. The responsibliities of the Editor will include:

soliciting contributions for the Bulletin
reminding regular contributors of deadlines
editing all copy
arranging for setting of the text
proofreading
preparation of camera-ready copy of text and illustrations
arranging for printing of the Bulletin
mailing of the Bulletin
serving as a member of the PSG Executive Council

Preparation and distribution of each issue will take approximately the equivalent of two weeks. Additional time commitments may be required by Executive Council business. PSG pays all expenses, but the position is strictly voluntary.

The position offers a unique opportunity to be in touch with seabird biologists and matters throughout the world and to have a strong role in the development of PSG policies and activities.

Any member (or potential member) who is interested in the position and has the abilities, time, and access to resources to fill it should notify Judith Hand or Dan Anderson as soon as possible.

Results of the Publications Questionnaire

From 37 responses to the publications questionnaire the average ratings of the various Bulletin features were:

PSG News	4.2	New Publications	3.9
Annual Meeting Abstracts	4.1	Bulletin Board	3.5
Regional Reports	4.2	New Members	2.6
Conservation Section	3.9	Scientific Translations	3.6
Washington Report	3.0	Field Reports	3.6
Book Reviews	3.6		

Ratings ranged from 1 (little value) to 5 (great value). A couple of members appeared to have reversed the scale; if so, the ratings could be off by a couple of tenths either way. Every feature was rated 5 by several members, and the overall averages indicate that the interest of no given feature is so low that it isn't worth maintaining. A Canadian member wondered why we have a Washington Report but no Ottawa Report. The answer is that a U.S. member offered to write such a report, but no Canadian member has so far. An Ottawa Report would be welcomed and of interest to all members. Who'd like to write one? Another member thought we should mail copies of the Annual Meeting Abstracts to all members and not publish them in the Bulletin.

The members were 25 to 10 in support of publishing a newsletter, which is strong support for serious consideration of such a publication. A couple of members appeared to vote no because they thought a newsletter would replace the Bulletin. There is no plan to drop the Bulletin.

Those who commented thought that a newsletter should include up-to-date material that required immediate action rather than material that would be of value to save for future reference. The features most often mentioned for inclusion in a newsletter were PSG News, Conservation Section, Bulletin Board, and New Members.

The support for printing articles from other sources was 29 to 7 and publishing more original articles was rejected 15 to 19.

About a third of the respondents liked the Bulletin as it is and had no suggestions for improvement. Another third made no comments or used this question to elaborate on a previous response. A couple of members thought that there was a move afoot to change the Bulletin into a research journal and issue a newsletter to cover what currently appears in the Bulletin. There is no plan for such a change; the reason a newsletter is being proposed is to get information to the members faster than is possible with a biannual Bulletin.

There were suggestions for reducing the number of pages in the Bulletin by using smaller type, double columns, less white space, or few and smaller pictures. All of these are worthy of consideration by the next Editor. Currently type size is limited by the variety of fonts available in smaller sizes but this can be remedied. Double columns would give greater flexibility to layout but take more time; they would probably be required if smaller type were used. The bulk of each issue was reduced by about 25% when we shifted from typewritten to IBM Composer text in 1982. The current method of binding requires that the number of pages in each issue be a multiple of four to prevent having blank pages. This restriction and the amount of text to be published in each issue governs the extent and size of pictures used. Only the back of the Table of Contents is reserved for a picture. If recent issues had been shortened by four pages each by compressing the text and eliminating pictures PSG might have been able to save about $0.10 per member per issue, or less than $100 per year.

A couple of members suggested that the Bulletin come out more consistently on time. Independent of contributors' failing to meet deadlines, there has been a problem with the tradition of publishing the annual meeting abstracts in the second issue of each year. This has meant the issue could not be produced until after the annual meeting, which has been in January in recent years. This issue breaks that tradition and will allow the next volume to appear earlier.

The improvement most often suggested was to include abstracts of the current seabird literature. This suggestion has arisen before, and it is unfortunate that it wasn't covered in the questionnaire. Producing such abstracts would require some dedicated volunteers and might significantly increase the size of the Bulletin. Even a mere listing of titles would require considerable effort. The recent literature supplements to the *Auk/Ibis* and *Wildlife Reviews* already do a good job of covering the avian literature. To help decide whether the Bulletin should include a listing or abstracts of current seabird literature yet another questionnaire is bound into the middle of this issue; please give it careful consideration and return it soon.

Other suggestions were having Regional Reports include lab and museum studies as well as field studies, a column in each issue highlighting the work of a specific member, and a page in Spanish covering Latin American matters. All of these suggestions are good, and such contributions are welcomed. One member suggested that the Bulletin have a Letters to the Editor Section. A good idea, but even though I've repeatedly asked for comments on issues from the members and have written a few editorials that I thought would elicit responses, only Dave Ainley, Bill Bourne, and Stan Senner have responded in the last 4½ years.

Finally, 25 members said they'd like to automatically receive symposium publications even if their dues were increased while 11 said they would not. This possibility is not currently under consideration, but as PSG develops a more regular symposium publication schedule and assumes more of the costs of publication, it may need to be.

The Editor thanks everyone who took time to fill out and submit a questionnaire. Your responses will be quite helpful to the Executive Council.

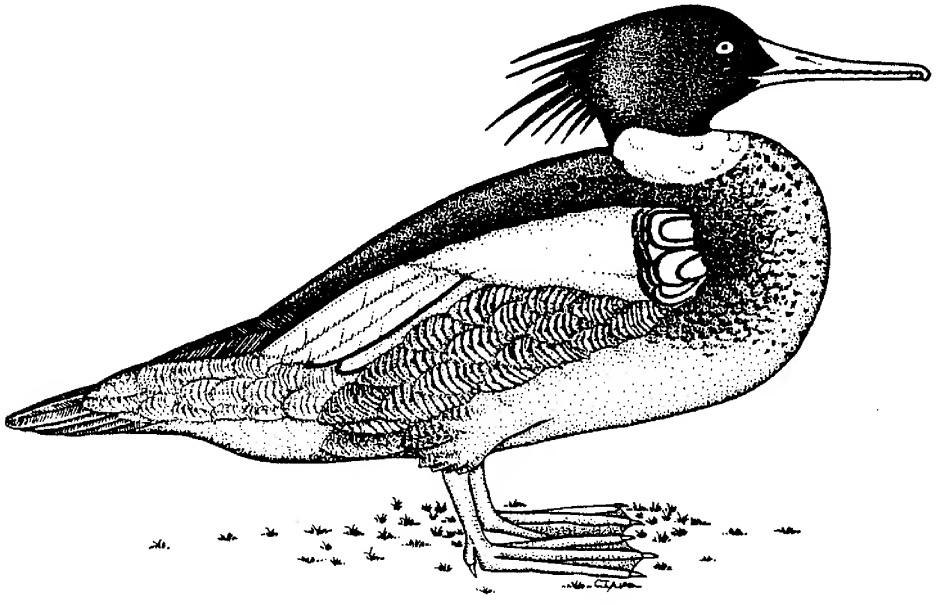
PSG Symposium Volumes

The Proceedings of the PSG Symposium, Seattle, Washington, 6-8 January 1982, Marine birds: their feeding ecology and commercial fisheries relationships, is now available. Copies have been sent to PSG members. Members who fail to receive a copy and others can obtain one free by requesting publication No. CW66-65/1984 from Distribution Section, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E7, Canada.

Previous symposium volumes published in the Cooper Ornithological Society's *Studies in Avian Biology* series are still available. SAB No. 2, Shorebirds in marine environments, has recently been reprinted at $12.00. (It could not be determined at press time whether there is a special PSG member price.) SAB No. 8, Tropical Seabird Biology, was announced in the last issue of the PSG Bulletin. Price is $12.00 ($9.00 to PSG members). SAB volumes can be obtained from Cooper Ornithological Society - EA, P. O. Box 368, Lawrence, KS 66044. Checks should be made payable to the Cooper Ornithological Society. All orders must be prepaid in U.S. funds.

Deadlines for the Next Bulletin

The deadline for all copy for the next issue of the Bulletin is 15 January 1985. All information on conservation should be sent to the Chairman of the Conservation Committee (Dr. Kees Vermeer, Inst. Ocean Sci., P. O. Box 6000, Sidney, BC V8L 4B2, Canada) no later than 15 December 1984.



REGIONAL REPORTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, JEFFREY B. FROKE

Research activities by southern California PSG members include, in part, the following:

George Hunt (University of California, Irvine) reports progress in a new 3-year Antarctic research project being made in cooperation with the British Antarctic Survey: George, along with Dennis Hienmann and Dick Veit, is examining distribution of birds at sea and its relationship to distributions of krill. Work is being focused in the Scotia Sea and Bransfield region.

George Hunt, Zoe Eppley, and Nancy Harrison are continuing a 3-year project in the North Bering Sea, studying the distribution of seabirds near colonies in relation to availability of food resources. Their work is focused on small auklets and murres.

Judith Latta Hand (University of California, Los Angeles) reports continued research comparing high- and low-risk foraging patterns of juvenile and adult gulls during scramble feeding situations. Further, and in collaboration with Brian Obst, Judith is continuing studies to sex Western Gulls using external measurements.

Elizabeth Flint (also UCLA) is continuing her studies of Sooty Terns, focusing on breeding biology and colony energetics in the Tern Island colony, French Frigate Shoals, NW Hawaiian Islands.

Charlie Collins (California State University, Long Beach) reports that 1) Barbara Massey and Dick Zembal are continuing studies of Light-footed Clapper Rails in several southern California marshes, establishing population estimates and using radio telemetry on selected individuals; 2) Dennis Minsky and Kathy Keane (CSULB) are continuing graduate research on California Least Terns, studying nest spacing and parental roles in incubation, respectively; 3) Jon Atwood, with Massey and Collins, is also studying Least Terns, focusing on age-structure of colonies, and use of chick growth rates as a monitoring technique; and 4) Lauren Hays (CSULB) is completing his graduate research on the winter foraging ecology of Western and Least sandpipers.

Stuart Warter (CSULB) is continuing to analyze *Chendytes* fossils.

MEXICO, ENRIQUETA VELARDE

Most of the research previously described (1983. PSG Bull. 10:14-15) continues.

New Projects

A cooperative study of Black Brant is being considered by the Mexican Wildlife Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A study of introduced species on Isla Isabela (off the coast of Nayarit State) by the Mexican National Park Service.

The establishment of a calendar for tourist visits to the islands of the Gulf of California by the Mexican Wildlife Service Subdirector for Water, Flora and Fauna. Enriqueta Velarde, Institute of Biology, University of Mexico, and an assistant will collaborate on the project. Dan Anderson, Univ. California, Davis, will act as an advisor.

CONSERVATION SECTION

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Several important conservation issues regarding seabirds not previously reported in the Bulletin have been brought up:

1. Gorda Ridge Mineral exploration

The Gorda Ridge issue was brought to PSG's attention by Michael Graybill and Janet Hodder. The Minerals Management Service plans to explore and develop Gorda Ridge, a 180,000 km^2 area off California and Oregon, for polymetallic sulfides. Chair Judith Hand expressed PSG's concern regarding this development to Mr. Zippin of Minerals Management Service (letter March 15, 1984). Dr. Hand urged that the Minerals Management Service delays leasing activities until sufficient information is available to judge the possible effects of proposed activities of seabirds foraging offshore in the area.

2. Bullet Train proposal

PSG was invited to comment on a draft of environmental considerations with respect to building a high-speed rail system at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California. PSG Chair Hand wrote Mr. P. L. V. Campo, Director at Camp Pendleton (March 28, 1984), expressing PSG's concern about potential habitat loss resulting from building the railway. Comments by two PSG members, quoted by Dr. Hand in her letter to Mr. Campo, follow:

> The idea of a Bullet Train as proposed represents more than a threat to particular species. It represents a very real larger threat to already dwindling and reduced coastal ecosystems. The issue is one of ecosystem or habitat preservation. From this viewpoint, and not even considering the needs for national defense, etc., the proposal jeopardizes the remaining coastal habitats in a way far more serious than the immediate impacts (which are serious enough). It represents an ultimate threat of total development to the wild areas encompassed by Camp Pendleton. Military uses of the land have been compatible with the natural values; indeed, the marines have enhanced and protected those values through stewardship. Thus any threat to the integrity of the military uses ultimately jeopardizes the natural values. This is an odd, but workable arrangement that seems to be the best current way to insure that the natural values of the land remain intact.
>
> I would, therefore, oppose the Bullet Train route as proposed. It is imperative that for the time being, the military uses and the federal stewardship of that land be maintained. An alternate, inland route (such as along Interstate 15) through lands already under private ownership will ultimately provide the greatest benefit to society.
>
> My major concern is that this project is another incremental habitat loss that daily destroys rapidly vanishing habitats throughout coastal Southern California. The most obvious example is the loss and degradation of coastal salt marshes and the number of associated species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered. Very little coastal marsh remains throughout southern California. Some of the best remaining marsh/estuaries are found from Newport Bay to north of Mission Bay; adjacent developments and water quality problems, however, are having negative impacts on them. The potential impact to the listed species, riparian vegetation, and marsh/estuaries should be viewed on a regional scale and not just on a local site basis.

3. Cobalt-manganese lease sale off Hawaii

PSG Chair Hand wrote Mr. C. J. Waltshire, Dept. Planning and Economic Development in Honolulu, expressing PSG's concern that a potential buildup of heavy metals in the food chain of albatrosses and petrels in the area could result from the development.

4. Oregon Nongame Wildlife Management Plan

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has completed a Review Draft of the Oregon Nongame Wildlife Management Plan. The plan was prepared by David B. Marshall and is intended to provide a guide and reference for the maintenance and enhancement of Oregon's vertebrate nongame wildlife resource. It describes the roles and authorities of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and numerous other organizations that have vital roles to play in the management of the resource. As a background and for reference purposes, the plan describes Oregon's vertebrate nongame wildlife resource in terms of species numbers, distribution, populations where known, habitats, problems, what must be done to maintain it, and who is to do what. It sets an overall goal, describes strategies and priorities, and terminates in a five-year operational plan which can be updated biannually. The public can see copies of the draft plan at the ODF&W Portland Headquarters or at any of the ODF&W regional offices. A limited number of copies are available upon request from the Office of the Director, P. O. Box 3503, Portland, OR 97208.

5. Illegal slaughter of seabirds on North Keeling (Cocos Keeling, Indian Ocean)

Dr. J. B. Nelson brought the illegal slaughter of seabirds at the above locality to PSG's attention in the following letter:

> It seems that the days of mass slaughter of breeding seabirds are not yet over. On North Keeling (Cocos Keeling) frigatebirds and boobies are being shot by the thousand without arousing any response from the Australian Government, which is now responsible for the island, or from Conservationists elsewhere.
>
> On North Keeling (12°10'S, 96°50'E, Indian Ocean) Red-footed Boobies (*Sula sula*), Great Frigatebirds (*Fregata minor*) and Lesser Frigatebirds (*F. ariel*) nest in thousands together with many Fairy Terns (*Gygis alba*) and a few Masked Boobies (*S. dactylatra*), Brown Boobies (*S. leucogaster*), Red-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon rubricauda*), Whitetailed Tropicbirds (*P. lepturus*), Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) and Common Noddies (*Anous stolidus*) (Stokes, Sheils and Dunn, 1984). On the other 26 islands of the Cocos Keeling group, which are more accessible, the seabirds have already been wiped out and North Keeling is their one remaining stronghold, probably serving a vast area of the Eastern Indian Ocean.
>
> As a result of a referendum Cocos Keeling recently became Australian territory after almost a century during which the Cocos Malays lived under the paternalistic jurisdiction of the Clunies-Ross family. As a result of their new nationality they find themselves, for the first time, with real money and little to do. They have acquired shotguns and outboard motors for their canoes and now regularly cross to North Keeling, more than fifteen miles from the main island, where they blaze away indiscriminately. Hundreds of seabirds, mostly Great Frigatebirds and Red-footed Boobies, are killed and wounded. Many, perhaps most, fall into the sea and drift away. The dugouts are dangerously heavily loaded for the return journey and it seems only a matter of time before one capsizes, perhaps with tragic consequences for the crew.

Whilst it was no doubt politically expedient for the Australian Government to turn a blind eye up to and during the referendum, there can now be no excuse for failing to stop this mass killing, which is illegal under Australian conservation laws and punishable by heavy fines. Reasonable culling of many species of seabirds has been widespread and traditional among oceanic islanders but the slaughter on North Keeling is neither reasonable nor necessary for food and can in no sense be considered as "culling." It is done largely for sport and for something to do. It far exceeds the one or two hunting visits per year which were traditional (Covacevich, 1983).

The slaughter is without Government permit, is illegal and is clearly contrary to Australian International agreements and commitments, such as the Japan-Australian Migratory Birds Agreement. Yet it is occurring with the full knowledge of the Federal Government, which administers the territory, and is creating scarcely a ripple elsewhere.

Concerned people should give the Cocos killings whatever publicity they can and could write to the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. R. Hawke, at Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

Unless the Australian Government acts quickly, North Keeling will go the way of the other islands in the group and lose its seabirds almost entirely. It seems extraordinary that with their admirable stance on many conservation issues and a sympathetic government, this flagrant violation should go unchecked.

As chair of the PSG's conservation committee, I followed up Dr. Nelson's request and expressed PSG's grave concerns to the Australian P.M. concerning the Cocos slaughter (letter October 1, 1984).

CWG-PSG JOINT ACTIVITIES

1. Dr. Stephen Kress, CWG Conservation Committee Chair, is now a member of the PSG Conservation Committee. In turn, I accepted Stephen's invitation to become a member of the CWG Conservation Committee. This action should strengthen both CWG and PSG committees, particularly where we will plan joint action on conservation issues relating to waterbirds. Stephen's address is: Dr. Stephen W. Kress, Chair, CWG Conservation Committee, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

2. The proposed joint CWG-PSG workshop on the conservation of waterbirds (see Bulletin 10[2], p. 66) has been tentatively rescheduled from 1985 to the 1986 IOC symposium in Ottawa. The new schedule will allow digestion of the proceedings of the ICBP workshop, held in Cambridge in 1982, on the "Status and conservation of the world's seabirds." The proceedings will be published in a 720-page book this December. (Most PSG members will have received notices in the mail advertising the book.)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION MATTERS

Southern California

Highlighting seabird-related conservation news in southern California is a recent decision by House and Senate negotiators to extend for one year a ban on oil and gas leasing off the southern California coast, including tracts within 15 miles of the Orange County shoreline. Representative Leon Panetta (D-Monterey), a sponsor of the moratorium, said, "I hope this action will finally convince the Interior Department to assure serious negotiations with Congress and the State

of California to work out a long-term policy for these areas." The action allows municipalities and other agencies along the coast one more year to make their cases and concerns better heard by the federal government.

Jeffrey B. Froke
Kees Vermeer

REPORT: U.S. SECTION OF THE ICBP

As one of PSB's delegates to the U.S. Section of the ICBP, I am pleased to report on recent meetings of the section. Seabird matters are a minor part of the section's agenda; however, such issues do arise occasionally. It is my view that it is important to maintain PSG's presence to provide whatever input may be necessary.

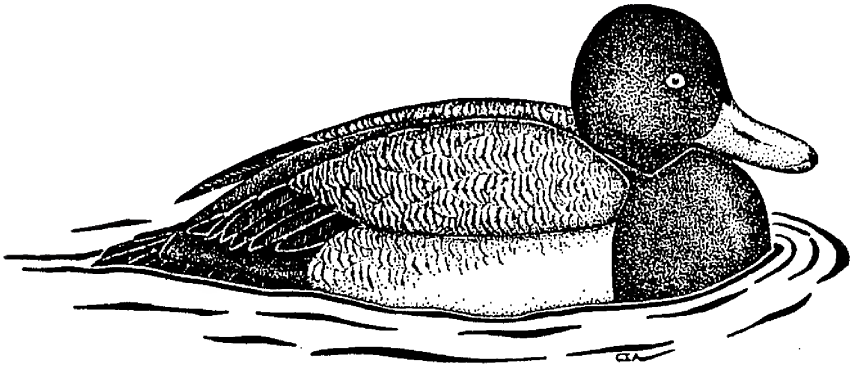
In 1984, seabird entanglement was discussed at length during the June section meeting in New York. A presentation by a representative of the Marine Animal Entanglement Network and a proposal that the section join the network to keep abreast of developments were on the program. The section members voted in favor of joining the network.

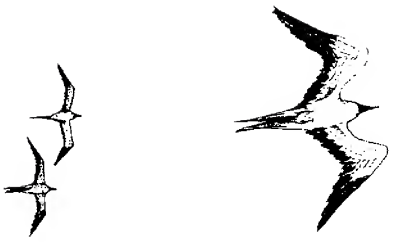
The network's representative noted that, until now, entanglement concerns have concentrated on marine mammals (e.g., Dall Porpoise/gillnet interactions in the North Pacific) but that closer coordination with seabird biologists would be desirable. There are many seabirds affected by entanglement, and section delegates believed that participation in the network would allow ICBP to play a more substantial role in future projects in this arena.

There also was a report that there soon will be state legislation banning gill-netting in Monterey Bay. In this case, an ICBP grant to monitor gill-netting activities produced some beneficial results.

At the Lawrence meeting in August, I was elected, in my capacity as PSG Delegate, to serve as a director of the section for the next two years.

Ron Naveen
2378 Route 97
Cooksville, MD 21723





WASHINGTON REPORT

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Of 12 bills moving through Congress that had a bearing on seabird, shorebird and wading bird conservation, 8 passed. Five of these were reauthorization or extensions of existing legislation, including Title III of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Wetlands Loan Act, Outer Continental Shelf Moratorium, and the Sea Grant Program. The other three bills that passed concerned the Connecticut Coastal and Atchafalaya Basin national wildlife refuges and the Mono Lake Basin National Scenic area. Bills that failed were Ocean Dumping Amendments (Title I of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act), Ocean and Coastal Resources Management and Development, Emergency Wetlands Resources, and U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.

Reauthorization of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 Title III

This Act, which provides a mechanism for designating areas with distinctive recreational, ecological, aesthetic or historical value as marine sanctuaries, expired in 1983. Title III has been reauthorized for four more years. Marine sanctuaries may be designated as far seaward as the Outer Continental Shelf, in coastal waters, or in the Great Lakes. After a lengthy review, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recommends a site for the Secretary of Commerce's approval and final designation by the President. Sanctuary designation should facilitate coordinated and comprehensive management of an area.

Reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act

The reauthorization extends continuing protection of all marine mammals through 1988. A key provision is the authority for the federal government to place observers on tuna boats. While their primary purpose is to monitor incidental catches of marine mammals, the observers usually take notes on incidental seabird catches as well. In addition, the bill authorizes $1,000,000 for the Office of Protected Species (National Marine Fisheries Service) for research, education, and other activities related to entanglement of marine mammals with nets and debris.

Wetlands Loan Act

This Act, which was extended for two years, authorizes the Treasury Department to loan up to $200,000,000 for federal wetland acquisition against future receipts from the sale of duck stamps.

Outer Continental Shelf Moratorium

The House and Senate Conference Committee extended the moratorium on oil and gas leasing in environmentally sensitive areas off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Massachusetts for another year. This marked the fourth straight year Congress has imposed a ban on offshore energy exploration.

Sea Grant Program

A bill to reauthorize the Sea Grant program, which provides federal money for research in coastal areas, passed Congress but faces a possible Presidential pocket veto since the Reagan Administration has consistently opposed funding this program.

Connecticut Coastal National Wildlife Refuge

This bill, signed by the President in late October, rescues several small barrier islands from impending development by creating a 142-acre refuge. The refuge, created primarily for the conservation of migratory birds, includes Chiman, Falkner, and Sheffield islands and Milford Point and provides valuable breeding habitat for several species of herons and terns. Falkner Island supports Connecticut's only significant nesting population of the Roseate Tern and the third largest northeast colony of the Common Tern. Milford Point is one of Connecticut's few remaining nesting areas for the Piping Plover, a candidate for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Chiman Island, which has supported the largest heron rookery in Connecticut for many years, is one of the largest wading-bird colonies in the Northeast.

Atchafalaya Basin National Wildlife Refuge

This bill provides habitat protection for at least 300 species of birds, including over 50,000 nesting egrets, ibises, and herons.

Mono Lake Basin National Scenic Area

A section of the California Wilderness bill, signed by the President, establishes a protective land management system for Mono Lake's unique ecosystem, which supports 79 species of waterbirds. Management responsibilities for the area have been shifted from the Bureau of Land Management to the U.S. Forest Service. The major issue not addressed in the bill is whether the City of Los Angeles should continue to take water from the lake in quantities that may endanger the survival of its unique ecosystem. The bill does require the National Academy of Sciences to study the effects of declining water levels on wildlife, including waterbirds, and issue a report by January 1, 1987.

Ocean Dumping Amendments

Title I of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 passed the House but failed in the Senate. The bill would have required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to designate permanent ocean dump sites for dredge spoils and sludge, to monitor the sites once dumping begins, and to charge dumpers for the cost of processing their permits. Prospects for action on ocean dumping legislation in 1985 appear brighter.

Amendments to the Coastal Zone Management Act

Efforts to amend the Act to require that federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease sales be consistent with state coastal zone management programs failed in both House and Senate. The "consistency" issue is likely to emerge in 1985, when the Coastal Zone Management Act is up for reauthorization. Another amendment to share OCS revenues with coastal and Great Lake states cleared the House but never reached the floor in the Senate.

Emergency Wetlands Resources Act

This bill, authorizing a major expansion of the wetlands acquisition program, failed to make it through Congress due to a controversial rider. The rider would have allowed the Army Corps of Engineers to begin construction of a pair of jetties that could adversely affect the Outer Banks National Seashore and Wildlife Refuge, which contain important shorebird, wading bird, and waterfowl habitats.

The United States Exclusive Economic Zone

In 1983 a Presidential executive order established an exclusive U.S. right to all resources, from fish to minerals, out to 200 miles from U.S. territory. However, the enabling legislation never progressed beyond the hearing stages. Many seabird, shorebird, and wading bird nesting grounds fall within the area known as the EEZ and could be affected should economic development activities be undertaken.

NONLEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Entanglement Network

In November of 1983, 14 nationwide, nonprofit organizations including American Cetacean Society, National Audubon Society, and International Council for Bird Preservation-U.S. Section united in an informal coalition dedicated to eliminating incidental and debris-related mortality of marine life, including seabirds, shorebirds, and wading birds. During its first year the network focused on marine mammals. At its annual meeting the board approved raising seabird protection to a major priority. During the next session of Congress the coalition may focus on amendments to extend jurisdiction for bird protection up to 200 miles, on securing funding for significant research, and on enforcement and programs related to the effects of entanglement and debris on seabirds or wading birds. If you have information or photographs documenting the effects of entanglement on seabirds and/or shorebirds, please write to the National Coordinator, Nancy Wallace, 6404 Camrose Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Fish and Wildlife Service Publications

By next spring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to issue three reports: "Incidental Seabird Catch in Salmon Gill Nets," "Seabird Management Plan for Alaska," and a report to Congress.

The report to Congress, due on 31 December 1984 (Federal Register, vol. 48 #210, Friday, 28 October 1983, p. 50004), covers potential sources of funding for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980. The purpose of this Act is to provide grants to states for developing state fish and wildlife conservation plans and for carrying out actions for the benefit of fish and wildlife, especially nongame species and populations.

Restrictions on Marine Mammal Permits

Since 1980, the Office of Protected Species of the National Marine Fisheries Service has prohibited willful discard of fishing gear while operating under these permits. This restriction was extended to permits issued to foreigners in 1983.

Role of the Coast Guard

Under the Magnuson Act, the Coast Guard now cites foreign fishing vessels seen dumping netting within the 200-mile EEZ. They are also empowered to cite anyone dumping garbage or other pollutants within three miles of the coast. The Coast Guard also is considering making entanglement a major focus of their education programs.

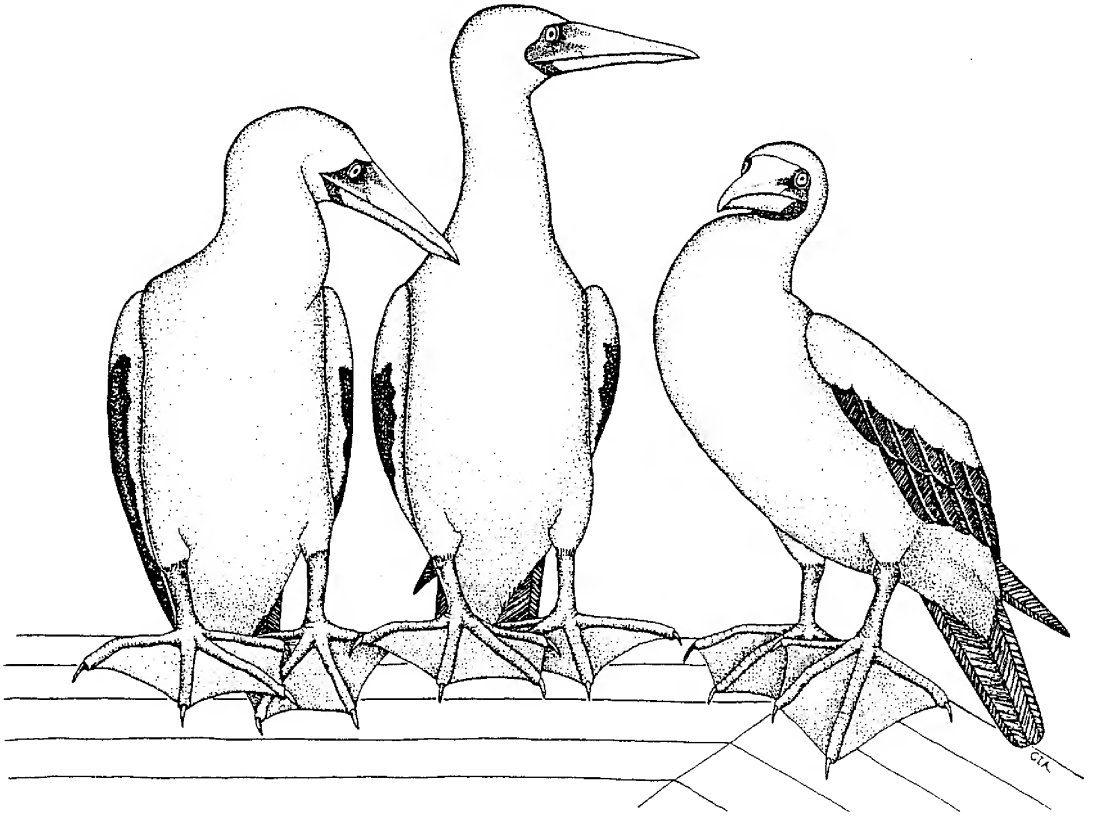
National Marine Sanctuary Status for Monterey Bay

The federal government has dropped Monterey Bay from marine sanctuary consideration without any public comment. Several environmental groups are considering a formal petition as well as initiating a letter-writing campaign to Dr. John Byrne, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

* * * * *

With the inauguration of the President on 21 January 1985 and the convening of the 99th Congress, the legislative and regulatory process will resume. Congress will once again consider reauthorization of major environmental Acts that failed in the last session as well as Acts that expire in 1985, such as the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. Regulatory issues will probably revolve around budget issues. These actions will be covered in subsequent Washington Reports.

Daphne Gemmill



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

c/o Department of Zoology, The University, Aberdeen, Scotland

The Editor of the Pacific SBG Bulletin, 12 July 1984

Sir,

Gerry Sanger makes some provocative remarks about my contribution in his review of the Proceedings of the Symposium on Birds of the Sea and Shore, Cape Town, 1979, actually published in 1983 although it says 1981 (PSBGB 10:79-81), which can hardly be allowed to escape comment. In the first place, I am surprised he canes Joanna Burger and not me for repetitiveness, since I was actually repeating a good deal of old stuff in the vain hope of enlightening South Africans, and only sent in a short summary which I was then ordered to expand by the editor. This explains why it contains a certain amount of waffle.

Secondly, since Sanger expresses surprise that I did not mention V. P. Shuntov, while it seems to me that he made a useful contribution to our knowledge of seabird distribution in the temperate North Pacific in the days before modern North Americans rediscovered that ocean, and one important discovery, the winter quarters of Hutton's Shearwater from New Zealand in the area of upwelling during the SE monsoon off NW Australia, if only someone had succeeded in deducing what it was at the time (I tried, but failed), I fear I feel that his 1972 monograph is better classified with the great Russian novels, since it succeeds in missing most of the seabirds of the world, much of the biology of the rest, and fails to explain the origin of its statistical data. Gerry needs to cultivate his critical faculties.

Thirdly, since Sanger expresses surprise that I should consider that the auks inhabit comparatively sheltered seas, I wonder whether he realises what really rough ones are like? For example, the oilmen thought that they knew about bad weather until they arrived in the North Atlantic, where their reports were full of awe-struck statements such as "This platform was generously designed for a 90 ft 100 year wave, but we now have working experience of 130 ft waves..." Despite growing experience of the legendary southern Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties (where I write this), the area off the Hebrides is still the only part of the world where I have found myself looking UP at the waves from the bridge of a largish ship.

Under these conditions while Fulmars and Kittiwakes (not to mention albatrosses) although a bit subdued still appear able to cope, our auks tend to cut and run for the more sheltered waters such as the North Sea, and even so still get wrecked on a dramatic scale there at regular intervals (and even penguins come ashore). I have become rather curious why nobody seems to see anything similar in the North Pacific; is it because your weather is seldom so bad, or because you do not go out in it, or because people seem curiously reluctant to report anything for the first time in North America? It appears from a growing number of records by the members of the Royal Naval Bird-watching Society in particular that while our auks are happy to go out to sea in fine weather in the summer, when the weather deteriorates in the winter and more aerial species do go out to sea the auks move south or inshore and take cover. I await further enlightenment about the situation in the Pacific.

Congratulations on a good seabird bulletin,

Yours sincerely

W. R. P. Bourne

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OIL SPILL

On 31 October the oil tanker *SS Puerto Rican* was ripped by explosions about ten miles west of the Golden Gate. Three days later it broke in half and the stern, containing about 1,000,000 gallons of oil, sank on the continental slope, 11 miles southwest of the Farallones, just inside the Point Reyes/Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The bow, which contained about 2,000,000 gallons of oil, was eventually towed to San Francisco.

An oil slick estimated to contain about 100,000 gallons of oil spread northeastward from the sunken stern about 30 miles. The slick intersected the Farallones, came ashore at Point Reyes on 10 November, and entered Bodega Bay on 11 November. An oil boom prevented oil from entering Drakes Bay.

By 19 November the slick had moved northward out of the area. However, a standing slick, 0.5 X 6 mi, remaining at the site where the stern sank on 18 November indicated that oil was continuing to leak from the stern.

Aerial reconnaissance found concentrations of loons, grebes, and murres to the south and inshore of the Farallones, in an area not contaminated by the oil slick. The slick appeared to have moved through an area with relatively few birds. Also no fur seals were found in the area, and it is thought that they escaped oiling.

As of press time, about 630 oiled birds had been taken to cleaning centers, and about 640 dead birds had washed ashore on the mainland and Farallones. From these numbers and experience from other oil spills it was estimated that from 4000 to 5000 birds had been oiled. About 80% of the oiled birds were murres; in Bodega Bay White-winged and Surf scoters were the most common oiled species. The Sanderling study plots in Bodega Bay were heavily fouled.

The 1971 San Francisco oil spill of 840,000 gallons killed about 20,000 birds. In 1983 the bird mortality in the area from gill nets was 25,000 birds. The murre population on the Farallones dropped from 90,000 in 1980 to 35,000 in 1984 from the combined effects of gill netting and El Niño. Thus, while the recent spill appears to have been less catastrophic than that in 1971, it hit an already depressed population.

The staff of Point Reyes Bird Observatory will continue to monitor the effects of this spill. The Editor thanks David Ainley for providing timely information on the spill.

SCIENTIFIC TRANSLATIONS COMMITTEE

The Smithsonian Institution has resurrected its translating program. The history of research on birds of the Soviet Union: Gaviiformes to Procellariiformes, edited by V. D. Ilyichev and V. F. Flint, has been recommended for translation. Volume two of Birds of the Chukchi Peninsula and Wrangel Island by L. A. Portenko has been translated and is in the final stage of editing.

Douglas Siegel-Causey

BOOK REVIEWS

The marine ecology of birds in the Ross Sea, Antarctica. 1984. David G. Ainley, Edmund F. O'Connor, and Robert J. Boekelheide. Ornithological Monographs No. 32. X + 97 pp., 42 Text figs. $9.00 ($8.00 to A.O.U. Members). American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

David Ainley and his co-workers are some of the most experienced of recent American Antarctic ornithologists. In the present work they provide a summary of data gathered on six cruises in four different field seasons, as well as an overview of a broad range of relevant Antarctic ornithology and oceanography. Their perspective is unique, bringing together experience in breeding biology, pelagic distribution, food habits, and oceanography. The major portion of their monograph is devoted to documentation of species' distributions and numbers, with short sections on feeding behavior and trophic relations. In their synthesis they discuss avian community composition, biomass and trophic interactions, and oceanographic factors affecting seabird occurrence such as ice cover, sea surface temperature, and vertical temperature profiles.

They recognize three distinct seabird communities: a high-latitude community associated with the ice pack, a coldwater community associated with icebergs north of the ice pack, and a Subantarctic community of species that move across the Polar Front. Not surprisingly, given David Ainley's recent publications, they de-emphasize the importance of the Polar Front as a barrier to bird movement and emphasize the roles of the ice pack and particularly the Antarctic Slope Front in determining bird distribution and abundance. They make the interesting observation that there is an apparent lack of birds near the center of the phytoplankton bloom in the ice-free, central Ross Sea that contrasts with high concentrations of birds at the edge of the bloom. Ainley et al.'s analyses of microhabitat preferences of different bird species within the pack ice point up the need for a careful examination of the ice habitat and how it is used by birds.

In presenting species distribution and abundance, Ainley et al. have divided the data into two seasons, early summer, when their coverage of the Ross Sea was reasonably extensive, and late summer, when coverage was minimal. For the illustration of late summer cruises, they show changing bird densities with coded patterns along cruise tracks and use letters to designate unusual sightings.

For early summer, Ainley et al. present contour maps of bird densities, with contour intervals varying from species to species. Although this approach is excellent in concept, their extrapolations seem too liberal. The number of samples (30-minute strip transects) was not stated for any of the contour zones depicted, and given the length of ship tracks in the regions, in some cases the contour zones had to be based on fewer than 20 counts. In addition, Ainley et al. extrapolated into regions where there were no counts. It is unclear how contour bounds were determined, how reliable these bounds are, and whether Ainley et al. made their extrapolations based on habitats defined by physical conditions. If the contours were subsequently used to provide evidence for the effect of these physical conditions on bird distribution, there is the possibility of circular reasoning.

The extrapolation in the contouring procedure is also of concern because the contoured areas were used to estimate total populations and the biomass of birds in the Ross Sea. When checked against colony counts the result for skuas was reasonably close, but we have no way of checking the accuracy of the population estimates for other species. It seems premature to be estimating regional populations in this area based on the limited pelagic observations presently available.

Ainley et al. provide important new insights about trophic relations of Antarctic seabirds. They find that the past emphasis on krill at high latitudes in the Southern Ocean may have been overstated. In contrast to the studies of Croxall, Prince, and co-workers at South Georgia, where krill apparently constitute the major portion of most bird diets, at higher latitudes fish and squid may predominate in the diets of some species. Ainley et al. also comment on the very broad overlap in diets of high-latitude bird species in similar habitats and the clumping of both breeding and nonbreeding birds near colonies; both observations are taken as evidence of a lack of competition for the rich food resources available. This finding will be an important factor in our deliberations about the possible impact on seabirds of a commercial krill fishery.

Dietary information from birds at sea is hard to come by in the Antarctic, and the new data offered by Ainley et al. are an important addition to our knowledge. However, samples of two or three birds taken at a single time may not be independent, and are inadequate to compare diets using indices such as Morisita's index of overlap. Thus, their conclusions need to be seen as tentative.

My negative comments concerning overenthusiastic extrapolation from the available data aside, Ainley et al. have provided a great deal of valuable information on a previously poorly known portion of the Antarctic fauna. They provide useful insights into the interrelationships between physical and biological processes. Theirs is clearly the most important study of pelagic birds at high latitudes presently available, and it should be in the library of every serious student of polar ornithology. It presents a challenge to all of us to quantify bird distribution and abundance and to relate these features of the bird fauna to physical and biological processes in the sea. George L. Hunt, Jr., Dept. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Univ. California, Irvine.

Seabirds of eastern North Pacific and Arctic waters. D. Haley (ed.). 214 pp. $39.95 plus $1.50 postage and handling. Washington State residents add 7.9% sales tax. Pacific Search Press, 222 Dexter Ave. N., Dept. SB, Seattle, WA 98109.

A biologist often has difficulty in finding a publication to recommend to the general public that provides basic information on the organisms he/she studies as well as conveying some of the appeal and interest inherent in them. This book may be that publication for PSG members.

The main body of the text consists of chapters on each of the bird families represented in the North Pacific marine avifauna and a chapter on seabird conservation written by 13 seabird biologists (most of whom are PSG members) and an introduction, an overview chapter on the structure and biology of seabirds, and introductions to each avian order covered in the text written by the editor, Delphine Haley. Careful editing is evident in the uniformity and conciseness of the text, still allowing individual expression by each author. Although the editor is not a seabird biologist, her contributions are authoritative and only occasionally extrapolate beyond proven fact. Each author summarizes what is known about a particular seabird family with variation in emphasis depending on the authors' interests and available knowledge. Many bring in aspects of the role seabirds have played in literature, art, and religion. The text is written for the general reader and is neither burdened with technical detail nor condescending. The authors who relate some of their field experiences are more engaging than those who stick to the facts, but all are interesting in their own fashion. I found a few cases where facts weren't quite right, such as the implication that all murrelets lay two eggs, or had to remind myself that some generalizations referred only to the North Pacific avifauna rather than to all seabirds, but these problems wouldn't be noticed by most readers or seriously mislead the novice. There is some repetition among the introductory material and that in the familial accounts, but it may be helpful for readers not familiar with seabirds.

I found the treatment of seabird conservation unsatisfactory. Conservation is mentioned by almost every author as well as in a final chapter by Warren King. Usually the mention of threats were too general and repetitive to give a sense of immediate or specific concern. King's chapter is unbalanced in painting every source of seabird mortality with the same brush and misses a good chance to inform the readers on the complexities and tradeoffs involved in ensuring the continued health of seabird populations.

A classification of seabirds, a bibliography for further reading (there are no references in the text), brief biographies of the authors, and an index complete the text.

The book is illustrated with 90 color photographs and 17 drawings of seabirds. These alone make the book worth owning and convey much that the text tries to get across. It would be hard to assemble a more comprehensive and beautiful set of seabird pictures. Despite scientific arguments on the health of ecosystems, diversities of gene pools, and other objective matters, it is the subjective appeal of seabirds that attracts people (including most biologists) to them and that will, if anything, eventually save them. These photographs will do much through their charm and humor to attract new champions for seabirds.

This book deserves wide distribution and will appeal to anyone interested in natural history. PSG members should recommend it to their local libraries, or, better yet, donate a copy to them. - J. G. S., Jr.

The Native Forest Birds of Guam. 1983. Jenkins, J. M. American Ornithologists' Union, Monograph No. 31. X + 61 pp., color frontispiece, VI color plates, and 24 text figures. (Available from Frank R. Moore, Assistant to the Treasurer AOU, Department of Biology, University of Southern Mississippi, Southern Station Box 5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39406. $9.00 ($7.00 to AOU members).

In preface, virtually all the native forest birds of Guam have unexplicably declined over the last 20 years, and most are now critically endangered. Seven were included on the U.S. Endangered Species List in August 1984. By the time Jenkins conducted his study in 1978-79, most species were already restricted to a small portion of northern Guam. The decline has continued since Jenkins' study; thus, the status of all birds is now much more precarious than is indicated in the monograph.

This monograph presents a medley of biological and ecological information on the eleven native forest birds of Guam. Though it is based on Jenkins' 1978-79 field study, much of the information was collected by former staff of the Guam Aquatic and Wildlife Resource Division (GAWRD). (In fact, the monograph is in some ways an edited and polished version of a bulky, unpublished report written by Nick Drahos, formerly of the GAWRD.) The core of Jenkins' monograph, pages 6-50, comprises species accounts describing distribution, habitat, behavior, food habits, nesting, and status.

Descriptions of observation methods are vague; data were collected opportunistically on "foraging, general activities, and courtship and mating behavior for each species." The various habitat types were not randomly sampled, conceivably biasing certain information such as food habits. When nests were located, relatively detailed information was taken, including egg measurements, clutch and brood size, incubation dates, nestling periods, parental care, and fledging. Weights and measurements are given for four species. Food habits were determined primarily on the basis of field observations, though a few stomach contents were analyzed.

Status was determined from roadside counts and from station counts. Results of the roadside counts, which began in 1961, should be accepted with caution. These counts were conducted on established routes from a vehicle moving 20-30 kph, and though suitable for sampling certain species such as the Guam Rail, they are poorly adapted for most small forest birds such as the Guam Broadbill, which was never recorded. Also, roadside counts were conducted by a number of biologists and conservation officers with great diversity in training and experience. This may explain certain of the irregular results. For example, the Rufous Fantail exhibited conspicuously low numbers in 1974, when only 1-2 fantails were recorded per 160 km; in 1976 this figure jumped to 9-35 per 160 km. Such a fluctuation in a resident forest species is notable and unlikely, particularly since most birds were declining during this period. These and other variable results of roadside counts should be pointed out. Nevertheless, for certain species, roadside counts clearly illustrate the pattern of decline.

The station counts initiated in 1978 were conducted by trained biologists and produced a much more reliable population index. Observers conducted weekly counts at eleven stations that were established in representative forest types on northern Guam. Counts lasted 15 minutes, during which time all birds heard or seen were noted, and the distrance from the vehicle was recorded.

Distribution and abundance are clearly displayed on maps. In delineating range and abundance categories on maps, however, the actual determination of boundaries is nebulous. There is no indication of the number of sample points used to determine boundaries.

Species accounts smoothly blend a conglomeration of information, from historical accounts to scattered GAWRD field notes. Much of this information was collected in dissimilar ways by dissimilar people, yet it has been efficiently compiled.

Briefly mentioned are native wetland species, resident seabirds, migrants, and introduced species. A checklist of Guam birds is included, but it should be used cautiously since several species are sight records that have not been fully documented.

A succinct review of potential causes for the general population decline is included. Pesticides, introduced predators (most specifically the brown tree snake, *Boiga irregularis*), avian disease, habitat destruction, and typhoons are discussed. Recommendations for future conservation and management are made.

Though his monograph is perhaps modest compared to some of the tomes that have been produced from other avifaunal communities, Jenkins reviews and assimilates all that is known about the forest birds of Guam. This is the first such work for any island of Micronesia, and it will serve as a solid foundation on which to base future studies. The monograph is particularly relevant in that it is the study of an imperiled fauna that may soon be no more. - John Engbring, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850.

Pelagic distributions of marine birds off the northeastern United States. K. D. Powers. 201 pp. NOAA Tech. Mem. NMFS-F/NEC-27. no price given. NOAA/Northeastern Fisheries Center, Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543.

This publication presents the results of a 26-month study of the distribution of seabirds found on the shelf waters of the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and Middle Atlantic Bight. Even though the oceanography of this region has been well studied, this is the first systematic study

of seabirds in the area. The text consists of an introduction; a brief description of the oceanography of the region; an explanation of methods; results in the form of maps of the seasonal abundance of the seabirds observed, a brief narrative for each species, and a description of community structure; a brief discussion; a list of references; and several appendixes.

The Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank region was found to support higher densities of birds than the Middle Atlantic Bight throughout the year. Of the 46 species recorded, ten (Northern Fulmar, Cory's Shearwater, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Northern Gannet, Red Phalarope, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, and Black-legged Kittiwake) were numerically dominant. The discussion relates the community structure found to the hydrology of the area.

As in most such studies, the author and other observers were restricted to making observations opportunistically on a variety of vessels with the agreement that they were "not to interfere with general operations." As a result, there was no possibility of designing a sound sampling scheme, and there is no firm empirical basis on which to compare the results with future work. On the other hand, Powers is to be congratulated for his pioneer work and for producing the best record available of the distribution of seabirds in this region. - J. G. S., Jr.

The Audubon Society master guide to birding. Vol. 1. Loons to sandpipers. Vol. 2. Gulls to dippers. Vol. 3. Old World warblers to sparrows. John Farrand, Jr. (ed.). 448, 400, and 400 pp., respectively. $13.95 each. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

This three-volume field guide is illustrated with color photographs (except in a few cases where paintings illustrate species or plumages for which photographs were unavailable) of living birds for all species regularly breeding in North America north of Mexico plus most species which occur irregularly. Most species are illustrated with two or more (up to six) photographs showing differences in plumage with age and season. The text is on the lefthand pages opposite the illustrations. Each volume has identical introductory material giving a brief history of "birding" in North America, suggestions for using the guide, how to identify and find birds, and a map of North America. A synopsis of the characteristics of the orders included is found at the beginning of each volume, and a similar synopsis introduces each family. Essays on classification and nomenclature, birding equipment, and how to report a rarity appear toward the ends of the first two volumes. Each volume ends with brief descriptions of accidental species (with no illustrations), a glossary (identical in each volume), and biographical sketches of the authors and artists.

My initial impression of these volumes was negative. The title is all wrong; what "master" birder needs 4½ pounds of color photographs, including multiple ones of species such as Black Skimmers and Killdeers? I would guess that a "master" birder would need only a few 3" X 4" cards to help with the identification of obscurely marked rarities. The claim on the covers that the books are full of "personal secrets for identifying particular species" seems exaggerated; I find few hints for identification not found elsewhere. The AOU classification sequence of species is followed throughout, but this means that similar-appearing species are often separated. The plate of black-headed gulls in the new Peterson eastern field guide is much more helpful than thumbing through five pages to compare breeding Franklin's and Bonaparte's gulls. The photographs show species in a variety of poses and lightings rather than the standard lineups found in most guides. The quality of the photographs varies from sharp focus to blurs. The style of the paintings varies and contrasts sharply with the photographs of living birds. Often the colors are too bright. The orange breast in the painting of the Mongolian Plover is nothing like the natural coloring. There is much redundancy in the text. The almost 30 pages of introductory material reproduced in each volume are a waste of

space since most will buy all three volumes. There is also some repetition in the characterizations of the orders, families, and species. Even within species accounts the same material appears in the introductory paragraph to a species and in its description (e.g., "The Whimbrel is a beautiful, large brown shorebird with a long, decurved bill and a quite conspicuously striped head." "This curlew is a large brown shorebird with a long, decurved bill (2-3/4 - 4") and conspicuous striping on the crown.") The "key experts" have neglected to mention the pale underwing coverts of the Ashy Storm-Petrel and that intermediate phase Parasitic Jaegers have complete breastbands, and make uninformed statements to the effect that White-rumped and Baird's sandpipers are seldom found in flocks larger than a few dozen birds.

A detailed comparison of these guides with others, however, points up some real strengths. The number of plumages illustrated and the details given in the text are much more extensive than those found in the Peterson or Robbins field guides. Only in Harrison's seabird guide are more details found. Each illustration shows some detail valuable for identification not found in any other illustration. In many cases other field guides don't mention important details, don't illustrate them, or omit them in illustrations (e.g., the "ear patch" in the winter plumage of the Yellow-billed Loon is only mentioned in Peterson's guide, illustrated wrong (it's not there) in Robbins' guide, but well illustrated in the Audubon guides). For the first time we have illustrations which really show what Baird's Sandpipers look like.

Overall, I think these volumes would be a valuable addition to most birders' bookshelves. They would be awkward to use in the field but helpful to keep in the car for quick reference. Most important, they give enough detail so that a person unfamiliar with a species can get a feel for its variation by studying the text before going to the field. Since everyone is a novice when it comes to seeing a new species, this book will be helpful even to most "master" birders. - J. G. S., Jr.

Short-tailed Albatross - the white-winged wanderer over the sea. 1984. H. Hasegawa. 43 pp. ¥ 1,200 plus surface postage of ¥ 450 (Japanese yen). Heibonsha Ltd., 5 Sanbancho, Chiyodaku, Tokyo 102, Japan.

This is a children's book, entirely in Japanese, on the breeding biology and efforts toward conservation of the Short-tailed Albatross. It is illustrated with 46 of Dr. Hasegawa's beautiful photographs. Shown are views of the nesting island, Torishima, views of the nesting areas, and many close-ups of albatrosses on land and sea and in the air. Photographs show eggs and chicks and many plumages of juvenile, immature, and breeding birds. The variety in the plumages of breeding birds is especially interesting.

I think many PSG members would want to own this book for the photographs alone. The price is less than $10.00, and the book can be ordered directly from the publisher at the address above. Since bank charges are now higher than the cost of the book, the publisher suggests that payment be made in International Postal Money Order. If payment is made in bank draft add ¥ 1,500.

I thank Carl F. Carpenter for bringing this book to my attention. - J. G. S., Jr.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Proceedings of a symposium on seabirds, Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo, 20-21 October 1983.

The proceedings of this symposium were published in the *Marine Sciences Monthly*, Vol 16, No. 4, 1984. The symposium papers comprise the entire issue and are completely in Japanese.

Translations of the paper titles and page numbers are:

Kuroda, N. Introduction: An overview of seabird research. 190-194.

Sugawa, H. Increase in Far East Asian populations of the Black-headed Gull. 194-198.

Nakamura, K. Distribution and migration of Procellariiformes in the northwestern Pacific near Japan. 199-204.

Ogi, H., & H. Tanaka. The main seabird distribution and feeding habits in the Subarctic Pacific region. 205-211.

Watanuki, Y. Feeding habits of the Slaty-backed Gull in the reproductive season near Hokkaido. 212-216.

Hasegawa, H. Recent studies of the Short-tailed Albatross. 217-220.

Tanaka, H., & H. Ogi. On the biological concentration of chlororganic compounds. 221-225.

Mizutani, H. Biogeochemistry of seabird breeding sites. 226-230.

Suzuki, K. Dynamics of soaring in the Wandering Albatross. 231-234.

Ono, K. Paleontology of seabirds. 235-244.

Yoshii, M. Banding investigations of seabirds. 240-244.

Hamanaka, T. Heavy metal accumulation in seabirds. 245-251.

[The Editor thanks Carl F. Carpenter for bringing this publication to his notice and Dr. Shi-Kuei Wu, Zoology Museum, University of Colorado, for translating the paper titles and authors' names.]

Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds

The results of the seabird workshop/symposium at the XVIII International Council for Bird Preservation World Conference will soon be published. The publication, *Status and conservation of the world's seabirds* (J. P. Croxall, P. G. H. Evans, and R. W. Schreiber, editors), will contain 46 papers. The status of seabirds for specific geographic regions is covered in the first 38 chapters. The remaining eight chapters cover the effects on seabirds of predation, human exploitation, fisheries, and habitat destruction.

PSG members should have already received a special prepublication offer from the ICBP. The regular publication price is £ 24.40 plus £ 2.00 for postage and handling. Orders should be sent to ICBP, 219c Huntington Rd., Cambridge, CB3 0DL, United Kingdom.

Wingtips

The first issue of the new periodical *Wingtips* has been received. Contents include a brief article on the Bent life histories, announcements requesting information or field assistance for various projects, an article on the *A.O.U. checklist of North American birds*, 24 pages of tables comparing the names used in the fifth (1957) and sixth (1983) editions of the checklist and common names used in various field guides, a listing of regional atlas projects, book reviews, and a calendar of meeting dates of many organizations of interest to ornithologists.

PSG members can receive a free issue by sending their name and address to: *Wingtips*, Box 226, Lansing, NY 14882.